

Remarks

Claims 1-7, 9-20, 22-30 and 38-43 are pending in the application. Claims 4-7, 9-15 and 23-27 are allowed. Claims 1-3, 16, 20, 22, 28-30 and 38-43 are rejected. Claims 17-19 and 38-40 are objected to.

Claim objections

Claim 38-40 were objected to as allegedly being informal. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested in view of the amendment to claim 38 set forth above.

Claim rejections

Section 112

Claims 3, 22, 30 and 40-43 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The Examiner alleges that reciting indexing a trace or an entry as is done in these claims is “redundant since only one trace exists in the claimed memory entry.” The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Regardless of whether one or many entries exist in a memory, the computer needs a way to find it or them. “Indexing” refers to storage of administrative data so that an item stored in the memory can be located for later use. The recitation is not redundant. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Section 102

Claims 1, 2, 16, 20, 28, 29, 38 and 39 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Agarwal (US 5,966,541) (hereafter “Agarwal”). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Agarwal is plainly deficient with regard to the asserted rejection. The Examiner alleges that blocks 101-103 of Agarwal correspond to the claimed trace, but is arbitrary and inconsistent in the application of the blocks in support of the rejection. For example, at one point the Examiner refers to “storing a trace (*including* blocks 101, 102 and 103 …)” (Office Action, item 5, line 8; emphasis added), suggesting that the Examiner views blocks 101-103 as being subsumed within a single trace. Yet, at another point, the Examiner says that “FIG. 8 is … interpreted as to comprise *many*

traces such as from block 101 to block 103 and from block 102 to block 103 ..." (Office Action, item 5, line 8, lines 11-13; emphasis added), suggesting that each individual block is viewed as a trace. However, a trace as claimed is not simply any conveniently selected collection of instructions as the Examiner would have it.

The Examiner's misapplication of blocks 101-103 of Agarwal appears to be conceded by the Examiner himself in the "Response to Arguments" section of the Office Action. Here (specifically on page 8, e.g.), the Office Action reproduces a portion of the Applicant's earlier arguments to the effect that Agarwal's blocks do not have a multiple entry, single exit architecture. The Examiner disagrees, stating that "**blocks** having a multiple entry, single exit architecture is [sic] not the claimed limitations. Instead, **a trace** having a multiple-entry, single exit architecture is the claimed limitation in claim 1" (emphasis in original). The Applicant agrees that this is the limitation of claim 1.

In view of the above, it is abundantly clear that, more specifically with respect to claims 1, 2, 16, 28, 29, 38 and 39, Agarwal does not support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that Agarwal does not disclose a trace with a multiple-entry, single exit architecture as required by the rejected claims. Assuming for purposes of discussion a "collective" view, i.e., that blocks 101-103 together are alleged to correspond to a trace, it remains apparent that blocks 101-103 do not show a multiple-entry architecture. There is no suggestion in Agarwal that the instruction sequence I3-I9 in blocks 101-103 may be entered at any point but instruction I0 in block 100. Thus, it is unclear how blocks 101 and 102, for example, can be viewed as having entry points since these can only be reached via block 100. The transitions cited by the Examiner, that is, I2 to I3 and I2 to I5, are not entry points but branch points within the sequence I0 to I9 (see Agarwal at, e.g., col. 11 lines 22-31). It is even more apparent under the "individual" view, i.e. that each of blocks 101-103 is a trace, that the blocks do not have a multiple-entry architecture.

In view of the foregoing, it is further clear that Agarwal is silent with regard to a trace with multiple separate prefixes, as required by claim 20. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 16, 20, 28, 29, 38 and 39 are allowable over Agarwal. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 16, 20, 28, 29, 38 and 39 as anticipated by Agarwal is respectfully requested.

Allowable subject matter

Claims 17-19 were objected to, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 17-19 have been so rewritten and are allowable. Withdrawal of the objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 22, 30 and 40-43 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, 2nd par. set forth in the Office Action. The Applicant respectfully submits that the above remarks overcome the 35 USC 112, 2nd par. rejection and that therefore claims 3, 22, 30 and 40-43 are allowable.

Conclusion

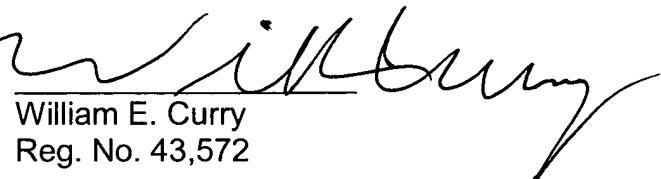
In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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